

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 1939 - SB 1945**

February 13, 2016

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Requires deficient applications that have not been corrected before the next regularly scheduled November general election to be considered void instead of rejected, effectively removing the requirement to notify the voter that the application is rejected.

Requires absentee ballots to be delivered to the counting board in the election commission office no later than four hours prior to the closing of polls for all regularly-scheduled November elections and no later than two hours prior to the closing of polls for all other elections.

Prohibits a candidate's spouse from being appointed as a poll watcher. Requires elections on questions to be held on dates set by a county between 75 and 90 days after the county election commission is directed to hold an election. Creates a withdraw deadline for candidates who have filed a petition to run for a vacant General Assembly position.

**ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:**

**Decrease Local Expenditures –**

**\$13,100/FY16-17 and Every Two Years Thereafter**

**Assumptions:**

- The Secretary of State (SOS) reports that requiring deficient applications to be considered void instead of rejected will reduce mail expenses for local election commissions related to sending rejection letters for deficient voter registrations.
- The provisions of the bill are not estimated to have any fiscal impact on state government or the Division of Elections.
- The SOS provided polling information, related to the provisions of the bill, from local election commissions. Based on the provided polling information, the recurring decrease in local expenditures for mailing notification costs is estimated to be \$13,124 in FY16-17 and every two years thereafter.
- Requiring an election commission to hold an election 75 to 90 days after being directed to hold an election will not impact local expenditures.
- Specifying a deadline to withdraw from an election for a vacant General Assembly position will not result in a significant fiscal impact.

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**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

/dwl